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(54) Title: IMMUNOGENIC COMPOSITIONS AND DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates generally to a method of eliciting or otherwise inducing an immune response to a microorganism and compositions for use therein. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method of inducing an immune response to a parasite utilising an immunogenic composition comprising a glycosylphosphatidylinositol (referred to herein as "GPI") inositolglycan domain or its derivative or equivalent. The present invention is useful, *inter alia*, as a prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment for microorganism infections of mammals such as, for example, parasite infections and in particular infection by *Plasmodium* species. In another aspect the invention provides a method of diagnosing, monitoring, screening for or otherwise qualitatively or quantitatively assessing an immune response to a microorganism and, in particular, a parasite. More particularly, this aspect of the present invention is directed to assessing said immune response utilising a GPI inositolglycan domain or its derivative or equivalent. The development of this aspect of the present invention facilitates, *inter alia*, the qualitative and/or quantitative analysis of anti-GPI antibodies in a biological sample, the identification and/or isolation of unique specificities of antibodies (such as those which bind a parasite derived toxin or the parasite itself), epitope specific screening or the rational design of immunogenic molecules and the generation, thereby, of functionally effective immunointeractive molecules.

WO 2004/011026 A1